

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested. Claims 1, 3-5, 14 and 19 are amended, claims 12-13 are canceled, and 1-11 and 14-24 are pending in the application.

A Request for Continued Examination is concurrently submitted to permit entry of this Amendment.

Independent claims 1 and 14 have been amended to specify that the integrated network switch includes a first table (an address table in claim 14) configured for storing switching entries that include respective IP addresses (layer 3 network addresses in claim 14), and a second table (subnetwork table in claim 14) configured for storing switching entries for respective prescribed subnetwork identifiers.

Independent claims 1 and 14 also specify selectively searching the second table (subnetwork table) for a corresponding switching entry storing the subnetwork identifier that is specified in the layer 3 packet information.

Support for these amendments is found, for example, at page 7, lines 5-7, page 8, line 3-7, and page 9, lines 28-32 (see also Fig. 2, ref. numeral 36, and Fig. 3, ref. numerals 60 and 64).

Hence, independent claims 1 and 14 as amended specify that switching entries can be implemented on a subnetwork basis, as opposed to an IP address basis. Hence, layer 3 switching still can be performed despite the absence of a specific IP address within the address table.

Claims 1-3, 12-14, 20, and 22 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,251,205 to Callon et al. Claims 4-6 and 15 stand rejected under §103 in view of Callon and

USP 5,987,524 to Yoshida. Claims 8-10, 16-19, and 21 stand rejected under §103 in view of Callon and USP 5,991,300 to Tappan. Claim 11 stands rejected under §103 in view of Callon, Tappan, and USP 5,260,936 to Bardet et al. Claims 23-24 stand rejected under §103 in view of Callon and US 2001/0012294 to Kadambi et al.

The foregoing amendments render these rejections moot.

The indication of allowable subject matter in claim 7 is acknowledged with appreciation.

In view of the above, it is believed this application is in condition for allowance, and such a Notice is respectfully solicited.

To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including any missing or insufficient fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(a), to Deposit Account No. 50-0687, under Order No. 95-343, and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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